



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the
Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.
MAY 2026

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The weather has definitely turned, and although the days are still warm, we can appreciate the cooler nights for snuggling into bed under a light doona.

I am sure that you are all preparing to participate in our fast-approaching exhibition which will be held on the second weekend of May 2026.

In anticipation of this exhibition, I wish to thank everyone who will spend time welcoming visitors to the hall. Also a big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who will spend time in serving in the café, and who will bake some delicious cakes and biscuits for the very popular Popup Café.

I am preparing to go overseas for a couple of months, so I will miss seeing the displays of wonderful creativity of each one of you. Wishing you all a great exhibition.



Intending to see many exhibitions on my travels, I will try to share some of them in the newsletter.



Our fundraiser this month will be the Ballina Bosom Buddies.



This service provides a community, support, and resources to help one navigate treatment and find the help when it is needed. This organisation is also here when one is recovering so that there is support after a breast cancer diagnosis.

Creative greetings to you all
Françoise

WHAT'S COMING UP?

May 2026 meeting:

Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026
Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Show & Tell: Diane Jones
Location: Boardroom
Cherry Street Sports Club
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets
Ballina

Throughout 2026:

Autum show: Saturday, 9 and Sunday 10 May
NRRG show: Thursday, 20 August to Friday, 11 October 2026
Spring show: Saturday, 21 and Sunday 22 November 2026



LENNOX NEWS

I was fortunate enough to see an exhibition at the Tokyo Museum of Western Art, of the 75 views of Mt Fuji by Hokusai.

Mount Fuji is everywhere in Japanese art, and it's not just because it looks stunning — it's got a huge cultural and spiritual vibe. The old story, the Tale of the Bamboo Cutter, reckons a goddess drops the elixir of life right on top, making Fuji the place to score immortality. As historian Henry Smith puts it, "From way back, Mt. Fuji was seen as the source of the secret of immortality, and that was a big part of Hokusai's fascination with the mountain." Smith reminds us, "So, from early days, Mt. Fuji was all about the secret to living forever, and Hokusai was totally obsessed with it because of that."

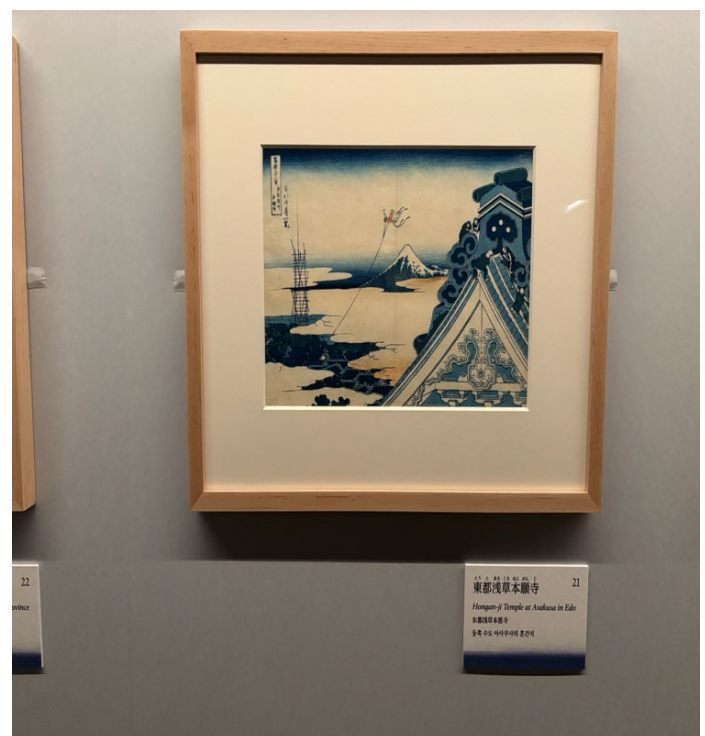
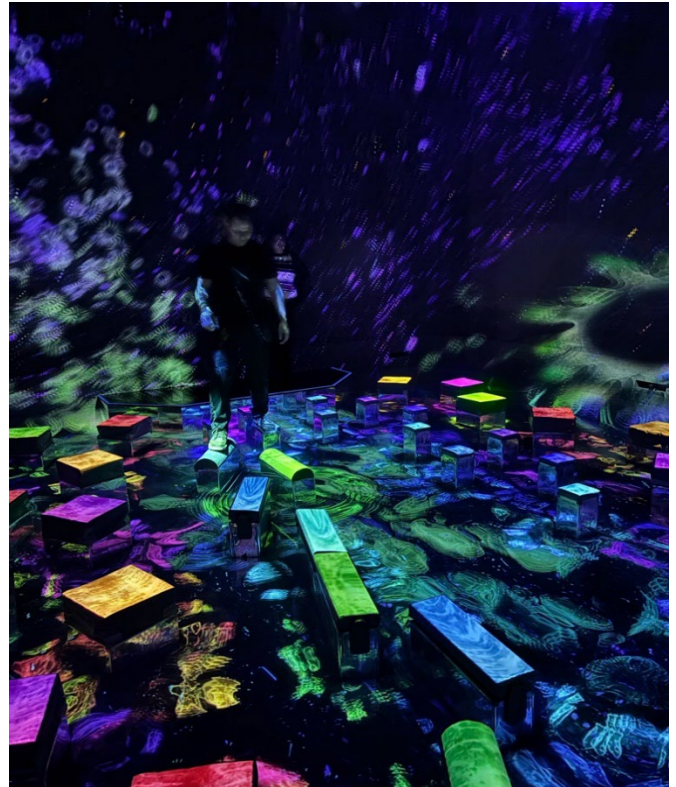
Hokusai made his pictures by drawing on paper, sticking it onto a woodblock so the carvers knew what to do, which meant the original sketch got destroyed in the process. Then the block was inked up and pressed onto paper. He loved using heaps of colours, so each colour needed its own block, making the whole thing pretty complicated.

In stark contrast to this I also visited Team Lab, teamLab Planets TOKYO — it's a massive, hands-on digital art place where you walk barefoot through water and get amongst all sorts of wild, interactive installations by the teamLab crew. Honestly, I thought it was a bit over the top and more for kids. Still, it's super popular and a real marketing win.

This last bit isn't about art, but I noticed nobody wore high heels anywhere — I checked out heaps of feet in Kyoto and Tokyo stations and popped into some shoe shops. There weren't any heels for sale, just sneakers and flats (mostly sneakers).

The KU Too movement in Japan, which kicked off in 2019, has really changed things, making high heels at work pretty much a thing of the past — even though there's no actual law banning them. Most bosses aren't pushing for heels anymore, and it's made a big difference to work clothes and the shoe shops.

Lesley Ryan



CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist(s) for April 2026 are:

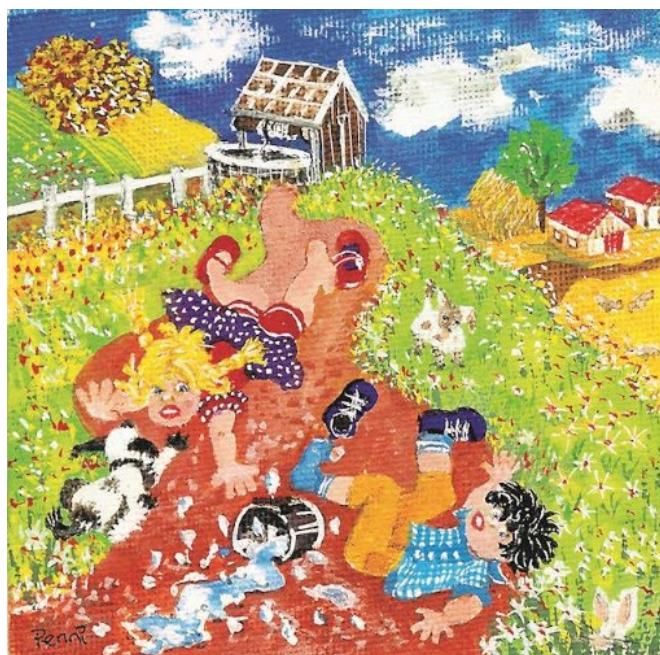
Artist of the Month – Penny Levitt

Penny is a graphic designer, and accomplished artist is based in Yamba. She brings a distinctive visual language shaped by her love of colour, pattern, and storytelling. Her work sits between abstraction and realism. Capturing impressions rather than exact representations and inviting viewers to slow down and look closer.

Working primarily in miniature watercolour and gouache on paper, Penny creates delicate, detailed compositions that reward careful observation. She has also expanded into larger acrylic works, where bold colours and stylised forms bring her ideas to life on canvas.

Inspired by the local landscape, her art reflects the flora and fauna of the region through expressive mark-making and layered patterns. Sometimes whimsical, sometimes strikingly real, Penny's work captures moments in time — offering a personal and interpretive experience for every viewer.

Cheers
Pauline Rutten



Ballina Wave Magazine **re 'Artist of the Month'**

Ballina Wave have given a monthly space to a BACCI member, titled '*Artist of the Month.*'

Details needed for article are:

- 200 words about you and your work (and a mention of BACCI would be great)
- 2 x JPEG photos (these can be of you and your work or just your work)
- email your Ballina Wave artist profile (a word document) and your pictures to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com) by the 1st of the month
- also email your document and pictures to Maria (mariaheaton@hotmail.com), she will post this on BACCI's [Facebook](#) page
- it would be great if all members could take advantage of this opportunity,



Please email your document and pictures to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com)

Do you have anything to share,
(eg art info, travel adventures, and/or photos)?
If so, please contact Rosie about your story – you can either mail or email your story and photos, (remember to include your name) to:

The Secretary BACCI
PO Box 111
Ballina NSW 2478

OR

E ballinabacci@gmail.com



FROM REGIONAL ARTS NSW

[Regional Arts NSW](#)

(<https://regionalartsnsw.com.au>) expect 2026 to be a huge year. We're coming up to our 80th anniversary and are so proud of what our organisation has achieved so far. We'll be celebrating this huge achievement and the regional artists we work with throughout the year, so stay tuned.

Follow us on social media to stay in the loop!



Schedule for 9 & 10 May Exhibition
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th

	Saturday 9th morning 9am to 12noon	Saturday 9th afternoon 12noon to 3pm	Sunday 10th morning 9am to 12noon	Sunday 10th afternoon 12noon to 3pm	Reserves
Cafe	Caroline McKay	Caroline McKay	Caroline McKay	Caroline McKay	
	Anne Wheeler	Mary Magnay	Mary Magnay	Rosie Kaplan	
	Suzy Reimann	June Hoffman	Deb McFarlane	Sharron Gillett	
Front Desk	Pauline Smith	Di Bell	Rod Ellis	Janette Britton	
	Alexa Grunner	Diane Jones	Rosie Kaplan	Alexa Grunner (from 2pm)	Mary Richards
					Rosie Kaplan
Other					
Money	Geoff Maclean	Geoff Maclean	Geoff Maclean	Geoff Maclean	
Walkers	Could all stallholders and cafe staff, if not busy, keep an eye on the screens near them and talk to customers about the art and BACCI				

COUNTRY LIFE ART EXHIBITION

18th April - 30th May 2026


Art Exhibition with a Country Theme
presented by

CASSINO GALLERY

148 Barker Street, Casino

Celebrating Beef Week

with a diverse array of artworks - many available for sale.
Paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography and kids' art.

Kids' prizes courtesy of 

Opening Event:

Sat April 18th 2-4pm
Entry: \$10 pp, kids free
incl nibbles and a drink

Gallery Hours: (During Exhibition)

Thursday, Friday, Sat 10am-3pm
Sunday 10am - 2pm
Gold coin donation



Images
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cassinogallery@gmail.com
cassinogallery.org.au
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COUNTRY LIFE ART EXHIBITION

We're inviting artists of all ages, including school age children, to take part in our next exhibition

COUNTRY LIFE

held from April 18th to May 30th 2026 at
Cassino Gallery, 148 Barker Street Casino

This exhibition features a country theme and will add to the celebration of Beef Week. We are showcasing paintings, drawings, photos, sculptures and artworks in any medium.

Under our Youth Creative project and by courtesy of the Greater Bank, we are offering prizes to each of three age categories: kids age 5-8 years \$50, 9-12 years \$150 & 13-16 years \$200, a total of \$400 prize money.

Entries close April 4th. Entry forms can be requested from cassinogallery@gmail.com or downloaded from

www.cassinogallery.org.au

There are no exhibiting fees. Entries should be delivered to the gallery on 11th April between 10am and 2pm.

The final acceptance of all artworks submitted will be at the discretion of the Cassino Gallery. Artworks can be offered for sale with 20% commission of the sale price paid to Cassino Gallery for any work sold. No commission on sales of kids' art.

For enquiries: Maree Beek 0439308620



cassinogallery@gmail.com
cassinogallery.org.au
facebook.com/cassinogallery

